Government for increasing the present quota of seats in trains on different routes passing through Guwahati;

(b) whether Government are aware of the persistent demand from the public for allocation of more seats for Meghalaya;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the quota of railway seats for that State through the Shillong out-agency; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) An additional reservation quota of 3 (three) second class berths is being allotted at Shillong out agency by 58 Kanchanjunga Express from 1.9.1988. It is, however, not possible to increase the existing quotas in other trains, due to limited availability of accommodation and fuller utilisation thereof at various quota holding stations.

Free medical facilities to railway pensioners

1857. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Central Pay Commission has recommended free medical facilities to pensioners of Central Government, as they were having during their service time;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite the said recommendation the Railway pensioners are still deprived of the said facilities; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. The Fourth Central Pay Commission has not recommended free medical facilities to pensioners of Central Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

1858. *[Transferred to the 16th August, 1988]*

Sambalpur-Talcher rail-line project

1859. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far in the construction of Sambalpur-Talcher Rail-line Project under South Eastern Railway; and

(b) what is the estimated cost of the said Project and the total amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 11%.

(b) Estimated cost of construction is Rs. 100 crores. Expenditure upto June 1988 is Rs. 10.6 crore.

Decline in the handling of foreign trade by Calcutta Port

1860. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Port used to handle more than 50 percent share of the country's foreign trade in 1964-65 which dropped to only 8 percent in 1984-85; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir. The percentage share of Calcutta Port in the total foreign trade handled by major ports during 1964-